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CONTROL NO.

Z- 10578/82

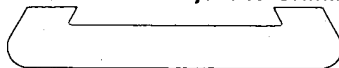
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DISSEMINATION CONTROL ABBREVIATIONS

NOFORN-	Not Releasable to Foreign Nationals
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PROPIN-	Caution-Proprietary Information Involved
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Attachment to Z-10578/82

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NPIC/PEG (4/82)

PROBABLE ARMS TRANSSHIPMENT
EL BLUFF PORT FACILITY, NICARAGUA

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1. (S/D) SIGNIFICANCE: AN ALGERIAN BECHAR-CLASS MERSHIP, WHICH MAY BE THE MERSHIP THAT LOADED SOVIET MILITARY EQUIPMENT AT MERS EL KEBIR NAVAL BASE AND SHIPYARD [REDACTED] BETWEEN [REDACTED] HAS ARRIVED IN THE ROADSTEAD AT EL BLUFF SINCE [REDACTED].

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2. (S/D) REMARKS: THE NICARAGUAN ROLL-ON/ROLL-OFF (RO/RO) 'ARACELY' IS ALONGSIDE THE BECHAR-CLASS UNIT, AND CARGO TRANSFER IS PROBABLY UNDERWAY, ALTHOUGH NO MILITARY EQUIPMENT IS DISCERNIBLE DUE TO HAZE AND OBLIQUITY.

(S/D) TWELVE BM-21 MULTIPLE ROCKET LAUNCHERS (MRL), FOUR GSP HEAVY AMPHIBIOUS FERRIES, 12 VAN/CARGO TRUCKS, AND PROBABLY ONE ZHUK PATROL BOAT (PB) WERE LOADED ONTO A BECHAR-CLASS MERSHIP AT MERS EL KEBIR. IF THE MERSHIP AT EL BLUFF IS THE BECHAR-CLASS UNIT THAT LOADED AT MERS EL KEBIR AND DEPARTED BETWEEN [REDACTED], AND THE EQUIPMENT IS DELIVERED TO NICARAGUA, IT WOULD BE THE FIRST DELIVERY OF BM-21 MRL TO THE NICARAGUAN GROUND FORCES AND THE FIRST SOVIET COMBATANT TO THE NICARAGUAN NAVY.

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3. [REDACTED] COORDINATES 11-59-40N 083-40-39W

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